the House by surprise at any time. We do not accept this.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is not fair that you take the House by surprise.. The House also will not function at the convenience of each and every Member.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Take the sense of the House, Madam.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Please take the sense of the House.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : मेरा इससे संबंधित नहीं है। मैं इस विषय में नहीं बोल रहा हूं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या हमारा भाषण अगली तारीख तक जारी रहेगा ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) : अभी आपने अपना भाषण दे दिया। पूरा नहीं किया होगा तो अगले सत्र में बोलियेगा लेकिन वाणिज्य मंत्री जी को अपना बयान करने की अनुमति प्रदान कर दीजिए।

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Please take the sense of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please sit down. This is not fair. Now Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Government's decision to ratify agreement establishing World Trade Organisation

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, hon. Members will recall that this House has discussed the Uruguay Round results on a number of occasions.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): There is no quorum. It cannot be done. (*Interruptions*). How can you do this? (*Interruptions*). Is this the way the Government should function?

राज्य सभा की अपनी गरिमा है। (व्यवधान) सदन की गरिमा का सवाल है (व्यवधान)

†[ایوان بالا کی اپنی گریما ہے.. (مداخلت).. سدن کی گریما کا سوال ہے.. (مداخلت)...]

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : गवर्नमेंट का यह एटीट्यूड ठीक नहीं है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: While there have been differing perceptions on one or the other aspects of the Uruguay Round results, Government is of the view that India's continued participation in the multilateral trading system will be in our national interest. (*Interruptions*).

Government have carefully examined the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation and found that:

— reductions in traiffs will contribute to increased trade flows;

— the Agreement on Textiles, though it disappoints us by not mandating early integration, nevertheless represents a definite, time-bound and legally enforceable commitment to integrate this sector into the multilateral rules governing international trade;

— India has not undertaken any reduction commitments in any area of support to agriculture and our development policies remain unaffected;

— there is no obligation on us to patent seeds and plant varieties and a sui-generis system, which protects the rights of the farmers and researchers will be in our own interest;

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, the House does not have quorum. (Interruptions).

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: — our patent regime will indeed have to undergo a change, but even here we have a 10-year transition period for introducing a full products-patent-regime;

— the rules governing trade policy instruments like anti-dumping and grey areas measures such as voluntary export restraints have been improved;

— multilateral dispute settlement provisions have been made more effective.

All countries which had participated in the negotiations had authenticated the results of the Uruguay Round at Marrakech by signing the Final Act. Additionally 104 countries had also signed the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation, 33 of them having done so definitely.

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE (Gujarat): Madam, I am on a point of order.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: There is no quorum in the House.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Since then 10 other countries are reported to have completed their ratification procedures. Major trading nations, such as USA and Japan, have also completed their ratification formalities in December, 1994. It has also been decided in the Preparatory Committee which met on 8.12.1994 in Geneva that the World Trade Organisation Agreement will be brought into effect from 1.1.1995.

With its continuously increasing membership, the GATT system is rapidly approaching global membership.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, you cannot run the House like this, when I am calling for quorum. There is no quorum in the House. It is an illegal House. There is no quorum. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There are discernible shifts in the pattern of world trade and the WTO will have to reflect these emerging realities in its functioning. India has been a member of the multilateral system from its very inception and intends to continue its participation to the mutual benefit of all.

Taking all relevant factors into account, Government have decided to ratify the WHO Agreement. The necessary instrument will be deposited with the concerned authorities shortly.

SHRI ISH DUT YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): Clarifications will be on Monday.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Why on Monday? Why have they left?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Clarifications will be sought on Monday as announced earlier.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh): Let the clarifications be had today.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, they have not given any request. The Members are not here. Why should there be clarifications?

SHRI ISH DUT YADAV: Let the House be adjourned now.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Will there be no Special Mentions?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Hon. Members, I would like to ask whether we should continue the House for Special Mentions?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Yes, Madam. It is very important.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Are you sure? Shall we go ahead?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Thank you.